

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 596

By Harper

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of First Lieutenant William McBryar.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly honor the memory of those stalwart individuals who, during the course of their military service, went above and beyond the call of duty, distinguishing themselves as true heroes; and

WHEREAS, one such estimable person was First Lieutenant William McBryar, an African-American military hero who is considered one of the most distinguished soldiers of his generation; and

WHEREAS, Mr. McBryar was born to Rose Black, on February 14, 1861, in Elizabethtown, North Carolina. He attended St. Augustine's Normal College in 1883 and entered its collegiate program in 1885, studying physics, political science, sociology, political economy, Latin, and Spanish; and

WHEREAS, with an unwavering sense of duty and patriotism, William McBryar enlisted in the United States Army. Hoping to be assigned to the frontier, he began serving in the 10th Cavalry on January 3, 1887, and became a part of the early generations of Buffalo Soldiers; and

WHEREAS, during his time in Company K of the 10th Cavalry, then-Sergeant McBryar distinguished himself during the Cherry Creek Campaign in the Arizona Territory, demonstrating coolness, bravery, and marksmanship while his troop was in pursuit of hostile Apache Native Americans; and

WHEREAS, for his exemplary actions, Sergeant McBryar was awarded the United States military's highest decoration, the Medal of Honor, on May 15, 1890; and

WHEREAS, he reenlisted in the 25th Infantry during the Spanish-American War, in which William McBryar further distinguished himself at the battle of El Caney, Cuba; and

WHEREAS, his valorous military service earned him a commission as a First Lieutenant in the 8th United States Volunteer Infantry, which he formally accepted at Fort Thomas, Kentucky, on September 22, 1898; and

WHEREAS, Lt. McBryar continued to display impeccable leadership and discipline during the Philippine Insurrection, before being demobilized in San Francisco in 1901; and

WHEREAS, William McBryar was married to Sallie B. Waugh by Reverend J.G. Walker in Greensboro, North Carolina, on December 6, 1906; and

WHEREAS, Lt. McBryar attended Tennessee State University, then known as Tennessee Agriculture and Industrial State College, and in 1934, at the age of seventy-three, he obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, this upstanding American hero passed away in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on March 8, 1941; he is buried at Arlington National Cemetery; and

WHEREAS, Lt. McBryar was inducted into the Pentagon Hall of Heroes, the Fort Leavenworth Hall of Fame, and the Arizona Veteran's Hall of Fame, and he was included on the African American Medal of Honor Memorial; and

WHEREAS, Tennessee and the entire United States of America are indebted to William McBryar. His courage and dedication to preserving our inalienable rights is a testament to the exemplary individual he was; and

WHEREAS, it is most appropriate that we should honor the memory of Lt. McBryar to the full extent of our ability, as he made untold sacrifices to preserve the liberties we enjoy today; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor the memory of First Lieutenant William McBryar and pay respectful tribute to his courageous service to our nation as one of Tennessee's most heroic citizens.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.